

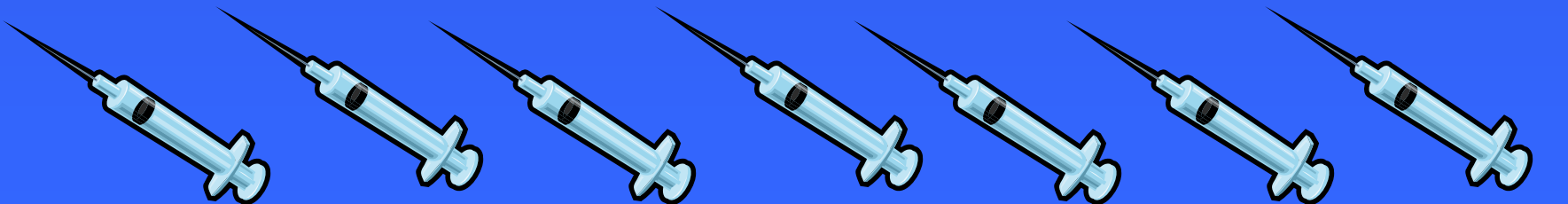
Residential Sharps Collection Programs



General Info

“Each year, 8 million people across the country use more than 3 billion needles, syringes, and lancets--also called sharps--to manage medical conditions at home.”

(Source: EPA Publication, “Community Options for Safe Needle Disposal”, 2004)



The Problem—Where Do They End Up?

- Sharps generated from home medical care may end up:
 1. discarded loosely in the trash
 2. flushed down the toilet
 3. released into the environment
 4. released from puncture-proof containers during trash removal and transport



Who is at risk?

- Members of the community, especially children, who may be exposed to needles that are disposed of improperly in recreational or other settings



Who is at risk?

- General waste haulers, during the pickup and transport process
- Needles may poke through trash bags or secondary containers, injuring workers and exposing them to potential bloodborne pathogens



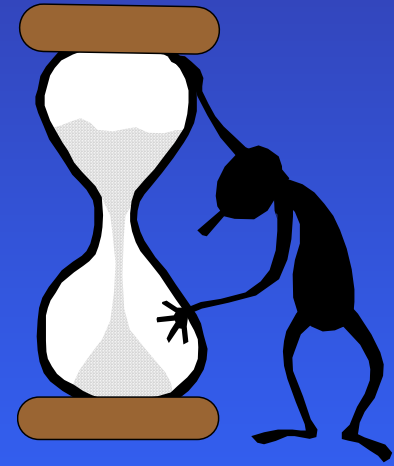
Who is at risk?

- Needles in a sharps or other puncture-resistant container can be released following compaction
- Landfill workers may step on contaminated needles, exposing them to injury and risk of infection



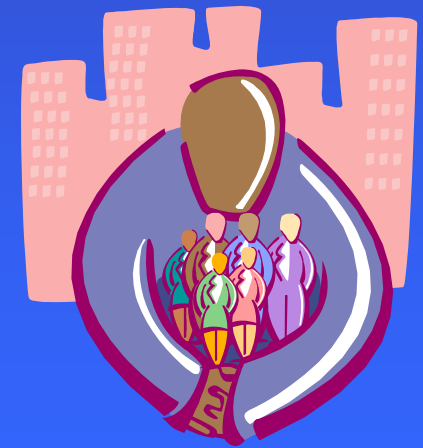
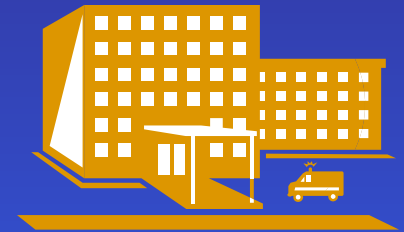
Needle-sticks: What Next?

- Any needle-stick injury is treated assuming the needle is contaminated with an infectious agent
- Follow-up testing, which may be costly, must be performed to confirm or deny infection
- May lead to months of anxiety and apprehension in waiting for results



Program Sources

- **County Government**
- **Local Municipalities**
- **Private Physician or Dentist**
- **Pharmacies**
- **Hospitals**
- **Private Companies**
- **Community Groups**



Types of Programs

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Programs

- Properly contained sharps are brought to HHW collections
- The sharps are stored at the site for the duration of the collection
- Following collection, a medical waste disposal service removes the containers for appropriate treatment and disposal

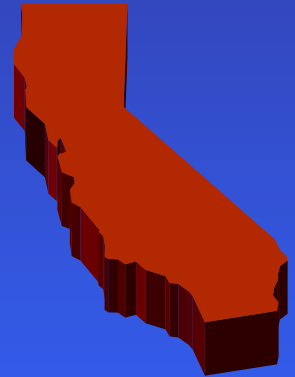


(Source: EPA Brochure, "Community Options for Safe Needle Disposal", 2004)

Types of Programs (Cont.)

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Programs (Example)

- **San Bernardino, California**
- **City implemented sharps disposal program at existing HHW collection facilities**
- **Free to residents**
- **Program currently costs approximately \$6,000/year to maintain**

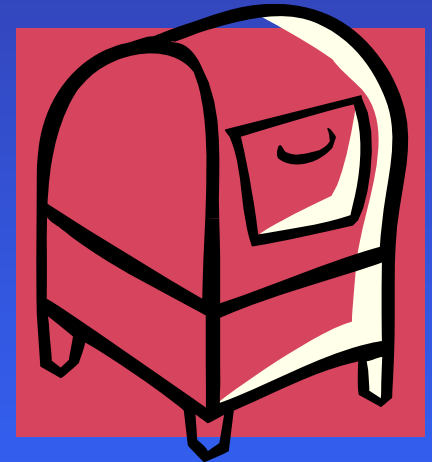


(Source: EPA Brochure, "Community Options for Safe Needle Disposal", 2004)

Types of Programs (Cont.)

Drop-Off Collection Sites

- These programs usually offer a “kiosk” where properly contained sharps can be deposited prior to removal by a medical waste disposal company
- These “kiosks” can be housed at a physician’s office, health department, community organization, pharmacies, etc.



Types of Programs (Cont.)

Drop-Off Collection Sites (Example)

- Program in Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin, called “Sharps Smart”
- Riverview Hospital offers a collection cart in the entryway of the hospital
- Residents mark container with a biohazard label and drop into the cart
- Program costs approximately \$2500/year to maintain



(Source: EPA Brochure, “Community Options for Safe Needle Disposal”, 2004)

Types of Programs (Cont.)

Mail-Back Programs

- Sharps containers are purchased from a private company and mailed back to a licensed disposal facility
- There is typically a cost to the resident associated with the price of the sharps container and mail-back



(Source: EPA Brochure, "Community Options for Safe Needle Disposal", 2004)

Michigan Programs

Eaton County

- Funding comes from the county surcharge which assesses each resident \$.60/month to allow for special collections such as sharps, electronics, hhw, freon, scrap tires, batteries, cell phones, etc.
- Several county pharmacies are provided with empty sharps containers by Eaton County Resource Recovery



Michigan Programs

Eaton County

- Residents may pick up a container and once filled, bring it either to one of the HHW collections or to an approved drop-off site
- There is no fee involved since the surcharge pays for both the containers and the sharps disposed of via the HHW collections



Michigan Programs

Eaton County

- Sharps containers supplied to pharmacies every other year at a cost of approximately \$1200
- Other costs include pickup by a licensed medical waste hauler, which is already contracted by the Health Department
- Part of cost may be absorbed by local hospitals or health care facilities that agree to take part in the program





Collection Points for Sharps

Sponsored by Eaton County Resource Recovery
Rethinking our dependence on natural resources by Reducing, Reusing & Recycling

FREE EMPTY Sharps containers are available to Eaton County residents at the following Eaton County locations:

Barry-Eaton Dist. Health Dept. - 543-2616
1033 Healthcare Drive, Charlotte

CVS Pharmacy - 543-4905
804 W. Lawrence, Charlotte

Eaton Rapids Medical Center - 663-2671
1500 S. Main, Eaton Rapids

Hayes Green Beach Hospital - 543-1050
321 E. Harris, Charlotte

Miller's Pharmacy - 622-3392
202 S. Bridge, Grand Ledge

Olivet Pharmacy - 749-2301
102 Washington, Olivet

Rite Aid Pharmacy - 627-2800
715 S. Clinton, Grand Ledge

Rottenbucher Pharmacy - 663-6811
124 S. Main, Eaton Rapids

Sparrow Pharmacy Plus - 627-1670
635 E. Saginaw Hwy, Grand Ledge

Wal-Mart Pharmacy - 543-0700
1680 E. Packard, Charlotte

Wilcox Pharmacy - 646-9274
142 East, Dimondale

Wildern's Pharmacy - 543-0830
201 S. Cochran, Charlotte

Wildern's Pharmacy - 645-7680
123 Lansing, Pottersville

FULL Sharps containers are accepted at the following locations year-round:

Barry-Eaton Dist. Health Dept - 543-2616
1033 Healthcare Drive, Charlotte
Accepted Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm ONLY

Eaton Rapids Medical Center - 663-2671
1500 S. Main, Eaton Rapids

Hayes Green Beach Hospital - 543-1050
321 E. Harris, Charlotte
Accepted on Mondays, 8am-8pm ONLY

Full Sharps containers are also accepted during the Eaton Co. Resource Recovery Household Hazardous Waste Collections held each year in May, July & September.

HELPFUL HINTS

If a disposal location is unavailable, duct tape your full Sharps container, label it either 'medical waste' or 'sharps container' & contact your waste hauler.

Do NOT let small children handle the Sharps or the Sharps containers.

Do NOT use plastic milk jugs, plastic bags or pop bottles for Sharps storage as they are not puncture-resistant.

Do NOT flush needles, syringes or lancets.

Do NOT recycle these containers or place them in curbside recycling bins.

For more information, please contact Eaton County Resource Recovery
1045 Independence Blvd, Charlotte, MI 48813
(517)543-7500*3686 or recycle@eatoncounty.org

Michigan Programs

Isabella County Bee Smart Program

- Sharps containers are provided to county residents at no cost
- When full, containers may be brought to several permanent sharps collection bins located throughout the county



(Source: <http://www.beesmartsharps.org/thesolution.htm>)

Michigan Programs

Isabella County Bee Smart Program

- Funding and collection sites are provided by local community entities listed on the program website:

<http://www.beesmartsharps.org/thesolution.htm>



Isabella County Contacts

- **Marnie Basney**
Isabella County Recycling
Environmental Education Specialist
- **Amy Shindorf**
Director, Isabella County Recycling

(989) 773-9631

recycling@isabellacounty.org



Michigan Programs

Ottawa County

- Program coordinated through the Ottawa County Health Department and the Ottawa County Solid Waste Division
- Approximately 400 sharps containers given out each year to Ottawa County residents at no charge



Michigan Programs

Ottawa County

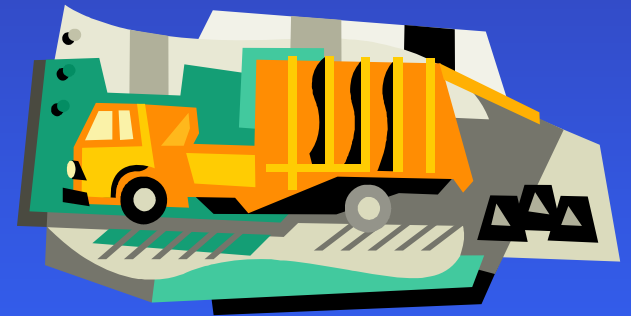
- Full sharps containers dropped off at any Ottawa County Health Office branch at no charge to the resident
- Only sharps containers provided by the Health Department are accepted for disposal



Michigan Programs

Ottawa County

- Collected sharps are included with the regular medical waste pick-up for the Health Dept.
- County staff estimate the annual cost to be approximately \$2,000, and includes the cost of the containers and pick-up
- Funds are appropriated from a 2% “tipping fee”, based on how much waste is brought in by Ottawa County landfills



Ottawa County Contacts

Scott Shroeder

**Environmental Health Division
Waste Management Program**

(616) 494-5569

sschroe@co.ottawa.mi.us



Donovan Thomas

**Environmental Health Division
Waste Management Program**

(616) 393-5638

dthomas@co.ottawa.mi.us

Michigan Programs

Ingham County

- Appropriately contained sharps are accepted at by the Ingham County Health Department for disposal by a licensed medical waste hauler
- Program modeled after Ottawa County program
- Currently have about 800 residents registered with program



Michigan Programs

Ingham County

- Funding through solid waste budget
- Sharps containers are no longer provided to residents due to budget restrictions but are still collected for disposal
- Bulk sharps containers were originally purchased and provided to residents (approximately \$1-\$2 per container)



Michigan Programs

Ingham County

- Currently, cost is limited to medical waste pickup (about \$54 every 2 weeks)
- Program will not accept sharps that are not properly contained prior to drop-off by resident (sealed sharps container or other puncture-proof container)





SHARPS COLLECTION FREE

TO ALL *INGHAM COUNTY* RESIDENTS*

Residents who use syringes, needles and lancets to administer medications at home and produce “sharps” medical waste can prevent injury, infection, and pollution by utilizing the Ingham County Medical Sharps Disposal Program.

(Source: http://www.ingham.org/HD/ENVHLTH/Waste_Management/sharp.pdf)

Ingham County Contact

Martha Knorek

Ingham County Health Department

(517) 887-4521

mknorek@ingham.org



Other Michigan Programs

- Hospitals and pharmacies in multiple counties currently accept properly contained sharps for disposal (*see list on website).
- Calhoun County (new program started in 2007) provides residents with free mail-back containers. The filled container is mailed to a medical waste treatment and disposal company & the resident receives a certificate of destruction verifying proper treatment and disposal was performed.

Other Michigan Programs

- Muskegon County (new program started in 2007) has a \$20 membership card that entitles the user to 5 free sharps containers per year. The disposal is included with the membership, and the containers can be dropped off at the Muskegon County Health Department.
- SOCRRA (Southeastern Oakland County Resource Recovery Authority) allows multiple “member communities” in Oakland County to dispose of full sharps containers at no charge. Each member community is assessed a fee for this service.

Where to Obtain More Info

- **Coalition for Safe Needle Disposal**

Phone: (800) 643-1643

www.safeneedledisposal.org

- **North American Syringe Exchange Program**

Phone: (253) 272-4857

www.nasen.org



Where to Obtain More Info

- The Centers for Disease Control (CDC)

www.cdc.gov/needledisposal

- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) (Medical Waste)

www.epa.gov/epaoswer/other/medical



Please Contact Us!

If a new program is established in your county/area, please let us know.

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Phone: (517) 335-1146

E-Mail: shannona1@michigan.gov

